Listing of the Claims

1.   (Previously Presented) A secure registry system including:

a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities, a code being stored with at least selected portions of said data for at least selected said entities restricting access to said selected portions to entities defined by each said code;

an identity mechanism which permits each entity to securely identify itself to the system;

an input mechanism which determines if an identified entity is authorized to enter data into the database, and permits an authorized entity to enter data into the database:

an access mechanism which permits access requests to be made to said database, each such request including an indication of data requested and at least one of a coded indication of the entity requesting the access and the status of such entity;

an entitlement mechanism, including at least in part said identity mechanism, which determines from at least one of provided coded indication of entity and coded indication of entity status whether the entity is entitled to access the requested data, the mechanism granting access to the requested data if the entity is entitled and denying access if the entity is not entitled; and

a restriction mechanism which permits entities to identify portions of the data relating to them for which there is to be restricted access and to store the appropriate code with each such portion, said restriction mechanism including a change mechanism for permitting an entity identified by said identity mechanism to change entities to whom access is granted for at least selected portions of the data for the entity.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each entity has a code regimen by which it can be identified by said identity mechanism and a distress code regimen

which the entity may employ when making at least one of entries and changes in the database to indicate that such is being done under duress; and

a protection mechanism operative in response to receipt of a distress code regimen for initiating appropriate action for the protection of the entity.

4. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said entitlement mechanism releases selected portions of data for entities to at least selected classes of data requesters based only on the coded status of such entity.

5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least selected data requesting entities have a mechanism included in their processors which automatically adds their status code to each data request sent by the entity to the system.

6. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least selected data requesting entities have a mechanism included in their processors which provides a format for requested data; and

wherein said system includes a mechanism which accumulates data required to respond to a request in said format and responds to the request with the collected data presented in said format.

7. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said coded indication and coded status for an entity are selectively merged into a single coded input to the system for an access requesting entity, the system including a mechanism for determining the coded status and coded indication from the single coded input.

8. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein an entity requesting data has a mechanism included in their processor which automatically includes with at least selected data

requests a coded status indication and a form into which requested information is to be provided; and

wherein said entitlement mechanism provides information from the database to which the entity is entitled in the form provided by the entity.

9.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein relevant data is stored in additional databases outside said system;

said system including a retrieval mechanism which, if the entity is entitled to receive such data, retrieves relevant data from a said additional database and provides it to the entity requesting the data in a manner transparent to the entity.

10.   (Previously Presented) A secure registry system for entities, each of which is identified by a multicharacter public code, the system including:

a database from which the public code for each entity may be obtained; and

a processor at a provider of services for entities, said processor including a mechanism for mapping each received public code to data required by the provider in order to provide the services, receiving the public code for an entity on whose behalf services are to be provided and using the corresponding mapped data to perform the services.

11.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said provider provides delivery services, the mapped data being an address to which item are to be delivered for the entity, the provider receiving an item to be delivered and a public code for the recipient, and using the public code to obtain the appropriate address for delivery of the item.

12.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said provider provides telephone service, the mapped data being a current telephone number for the entity, the provider receiving

the public code and connecting the party providing the code to the current telephone number of the entity.

13.   (Original) A secure registry system including:

a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities;

a mechanism by which an organization desiring access to data in said database may gain such access, each said organization having a processor which generates data requests, each such data request including a form in which such data is to be provided; and

a response mechanism which collects data required by said form for a given request, formats the collected data in said form, and sends the formatted data to the organization generating the request.

14. (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented) A storage media containing machine readable code which facilitates communication between a remote machine running the code and a secure registry system of a type having a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities and restricted access to at least portions of such data, the code causing access requests from the remote machine to the system to each automatically include at least a status code for the machine and a form in which data requested is to be presented for response, the secure registry system configured to recognize the status code and to control access to data in the database based on the status code, and configured to use the form to select the data to be accessed and to control the format in which accessed data is returned to the machine.

16.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing a secure registry system including a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities, a code being stored with at

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least selected portions of said data for at least selected said entities restricting access to said selected portions to entities defined by each said code, the method comprising;

permitting each entity to securely identify itself;

determining if an identified entity is authorized to enter data into the database, and permitting an authorized entity to enter data into the database:

permitting access requests to be made to said database, each such request including an indication of data requested and at least one of a coded indication of the entity requesting the access and the status of such entity;

determining from at least one of provided coded indication of entity and coded indication of entity status whether the entity is entitled to access the requested data, and granting access to the requested data if the entity is entitled and access being denied if the entity is not entitled; and

permitting entities to identify portions of the data relating to them for which there is to be restricted access and to store the appropriate code with each such portion, said act of permitting further comprising permitting an entity to change entities to whom access is granted for at least selected portions of the data for the entity.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein each entity has a code regimen by which it can be identified and a distress code regimen which the entity may employ when making at least one of entries and changes in the database to indicate that such is being done under duress further comprising in response to receipt of a distress code regimen, initiating appropriate action for the protection of the entity.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising releasing selected portions of data for entities to at least selected classes of data requesters based only on the coded status of such entity.

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20   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein relevant data is also stored in additional databases outside said system, the method further comprising:

     if the entity is entitled to receive such data, retrieving relevant data from a said additional database and providing it to the entity requesting the data in a manner transparent to the entity.

21.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing a secure register for entities, each of which is identified by a multicharacter public code, the system including: a database from which the public code for each entity may be obtained; and a provider of services processor at a provider of services for entities, the method comprising:

     receiving the public code for an entity on whose behalf the services are to be provided, mapping each received public code to data required by the provider in order to provide the services, and using the corresponding mapped data to perform the services.

22.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said provider provides delivery services, the mapped data being an address to which item are to be delivered for the entity, the provider receiving an item to be delivered and a public code for the recipient, and using the public code to obtain the appropriate address for delivery of the item.

23.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said provider provides telephone service, the mapped data being a current telephone number for the entity, the provider receiving the public code and connecting the party providing the code to the current telephone number of the entity.

24.   (Previously Presented) The secure registry system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the processor is configured to map the received public code to data required by the service provider, and to perform the service without disclosing the data to the service provider.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing a secure register as claimed in claim 21, wherein the acts of mapping the received public code and using the mapped data to perform the services comprises not providing the data to the provider of services.

26.   (Previously Presented) The secure registry system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mapped data is credit card information regarding the entity, and wherein the processor is configured to receive the credit card information to complete the service based upon the public code of the entity.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the processor is configured to receive an approval of the credit card transaction without receiving the credit card number of the entity.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the act of using the mapped data to perform the services comprises receiving credit card information about the entity to perform these services.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the act of using the mapped data comprises receiving a validation or denial of the credit card transaction without actually receiving the credit card number of the entity.

30.   (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mapped data is bank card information regarding the entity, and wherein the processor is configured to receive the credit card information to complete the service based upon the public code of the entity.

31.   (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein the processor is configured to receive an approval of the bank card transaction without receiving the bank card number of the entity.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the act of using the mapped data to perform the services comprises receiving bank card information about the entity to perform these services.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the act of using the mapped data comprises receiving a validation or denial of the bank card transaction without actually receiving the bank card number of the entity.

34.   (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mapped data is personal identification information regarding the entity.

35.   (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the personal identification information comprises a photograph of the entity.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the act of using the mapped data to perform the services comprises mapping the public code into personal identification information about the entity to perform these services.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the personal identification information comprises a photograph of the entity.

38.   (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mapped data is email address information regarding the entity.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the act of using the mapped data to perform the services comprises mapping the public code into email address information about the entity to perform these services.

40. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mapped data is public record information regarding the entity.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the act of using the mapped data to perform the services comprises mapping the public code into public record information about the entity to perform these services.

42. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the mapped data comprises a plurality of rules and the current telephone number is one of a plurality of numbers to be provided to the requestor based upon the plurality of rules.

43. (Previously Presented) The storage media as claimed in claim 15, wherein the storage media is also configured to facilitate communication with the secure registry system to update the accessed data when the data on any of the plurality of entities has been updated.